

Register results

The following actions have been taken by Federal agencies. They have been summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals. Extent of consumer comment is reported when such information is available.

• **Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) has established a new standard of identity for a product to be named "peanut spread" if it does not meet the existing standard of identity of peanut butter. FDA received 27 comments from consumers, consumer organizations, industry and industry associations. Consumer comments generally were in favor of the requirement that the percentage of peanuts be declared as part of the common or usual name of the peanut spread. Some of the comments objected to the proposal because no minimum peanut requirements was established for the spread, and that such products could contain as little as one percent peanuts. FDA decided that percentage declaration of peanuts on the label provided enough information to avoid consumer confusion. Manufacturers must begin complying with this new regulation by July 1, 1979. Details—*Federal Register*: July 15, page 36452; Nov. 3, 1975, page 51052. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 1, 1975.

• **Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) will soon request that women taking the drug estrogen be given a simply written brochure telling them about the risks and benefits of taking estrogen to treat menopausal discomfort. The brochure will warn the women that extended estrogen drug use increases the risk of cancer of the uterus. This brochure is in addition to doctor's advice at the time the estrogen drug is prescribed. Details—*Federal Register*: July 22, page 37636; Sept. 29, 1976, page 43108. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 15, 1976.

• **Legal Services Corp.** (LSC) has established a grievance committee to handle complaints of clients who believe they have been denied legal services or who are dissatisfied with the assistance provided. Aug. 24 is effective date. Details—*Federal Register*: July 22, page 37551; Jan. 26, page 4867. CONSUMER REGISTER: Feb. 15. For more information write or call Linda Davis, Legal Services Corp., 733 15th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005; telephone 202-376-5113.

Saccharin

Aug. 31 is new deadline for comments on **Food and Drug Administration's** (FDA) proposal to restrict or ban the use of the artificial sweetener saccharin in food, drugs and cosmetics.

The original deadline for commenting was June 14 [CONSUMER REGISTER: May 1], but FDA decided to extend the comment period because it now has available 2 new studies on the safety of saccharin. One study is general in nature, but the other study shows a relationship between saccharin use and bladder cancer in human males. Because of the importance of the latter study, FDA decided to reopen the comment period and would like to receive "further views on the reliability and significance of the new studies." Copies of the studies are available by writing to FDA at the address listed below under "Details."

Details—*Federal Register*: July 1, page 33768; April 15, pages 20009 and 19996. CONSUMER REGISTER: May 1. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. For further information write or call Ronald J. Wylie at above address; telephone 301-443-3480.

Mobile home manuals

Housing and Urban Development Dept. (HUD) has issued final regulations requiring manufacturers of mobile homes to include a consumer manual in each home going into production on or after July 31. The original date of June 30 was changed at the request of several manufacturers who said they needed more time to prepare the manuals.

While the regulations do not specify a format for the manuals, they are explicit about the subjects manufacturers should cover. The manuals must describe protection offered by the National Mobile Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974. They must explain in plain English what warranties (if any) mean and how the consumer can be pro-

tected by the warranties. If appliances and components in the homes are not covered by the mobile home manufacturer's warranty, they also should be listed. Instructions for setting up mobile homes should include information on preparation of the site, types of foundations for which the home was designed, leveling the home, utility connections, anchoring against wind upset and sliding, and inspection after the unit is set up for possible damage in transit. The manuals will explain fire safety features and safe operation of the home's electric, plumbing and heating systems. Operation and maintenance of all parts and appliances will be explained. In addition, the manual will identify and explain the responsibility of the purchaser for the operation, maintenance and repair of the mobile home. Finally, if consumers decide to move their mobile homes, they can consult the manual for moving tips. For further information, write or call the Mobile Home Standards Division, Housing and Urban Development Dept., Washington, DC 20410; telephone 202-472-4703.

HUD's booklet on mobile homes is still in the draft stage. When it becomes available, CONSUMER NEWS will report details.

Details—*Federal Register*: June 30, page 33499; March 31, page 17294. CONSUMER REGISTER: April 15.

Aerosols

Dec. 31 1977 is new deadline for **Food and Drug Administration's** (FDA) requirement that warning labels appear on products containing chlorofluorocarbon as a propellant in gift packs and fragrance preparations. The original date for industry compliance was Oct. 31, 1977, and it continues to be the effective date for all other products covered by the regulation [CONSUMER REGISTER: May 15].

The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association asked for the time extension until after the Christmas season to "avoid disruption and increased production costs."

Details—*Federal Register*: July 22, page 37546.

CB radios

Oct. 3 is deadline for comments on **Federal Communications Commission's** (FCC) proposed revised and simplified regulations covering Citizens Band (CB) Radio Service.

Because CB Service is the largest radio service under FCC's jurisdiction (almost 10 million stations licensed on May 1 and the number growing at the rate of ½ million per month), several substantial problems have arisen. Chief among these are the problems associated "with the crowding of an estimated 20 million or more essentially untrained, nontechnically oriented users of the CB service onto a relative handful of frequencies." FCC hopes the clarified rules will increase user compliance, but in the meantime it wants to know what CB users think about the rules.

The CB regulations answer questions such as:

- What is the Citizens Band Radio Service?
- How do I use the rules?
- How are the key words in these rules defined ("antenna structure," "broadcast," "carrier power," "communications" and "emergency communications")?
- Do I need a license (eligibility, how to apply, how long valid, etc.)?
- How do I operate a CB station (on what channels to operate, height of antenna, equipment that may be used, power restrictions, kinds of messages that may be transmitted, etc.)?
- Do I need to have a current copy of the CB rules (penalties for violations, station interference, how to get in touch with FCC, etc.)?

For a copy of the proposed rules—and how they differ from the existing ones—write or call Office of Information, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20554; telephone 202-632-7260.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 20, page 37304. Send comments to Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. Identify comments with docket number (21318). For further information write or call Erika M. Ziebarth or Gregory M. Jones at above address; telephone: 202-634-6619 or 202-634-6620.

"Gold" and "silver"

Sept. 12 is new deadline for comments on **Federal Trade Commission's** (FTC) proposal to permit some jewelry items to be described as "gold" or "silver" even if the items contain less than the required amounts of the metals. Original deadline for comments was July 10.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 20, page 37212; June 10, page 29916. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 15. Send comments to Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. For further information call or write D. McCarty Thornton at above address; telephone 202-523-3913.

Credit unions

Sept. 19 is deadline for comments on **National Credit Union Administration's** (NCUA) proposals to establish share accounts with varying dividend rates and share certificate accounts with varying rates and maturities. Until now, credit unions have had only one basic type of share account which does not require the holder to maintain a minimum balance greater than the par value of a share or to give notice of intent to withdraw, in most cases. The new accounts should give consumers more flexibility in choosing savings plans.

The proposals, which implement amendments to the Federal Credit Union Act, include provisions for the following types of savings accounts:

- "Notice Account." Requires a minimum of 90 days written notice of intent to withdraw which in some instances could be given at the time of deposit.
- "Minimum Balance Account." Available in amounts of \$500 or less. This account would not have a specific maturity, but would have to be maintained at or above the minimum requirement for an entire dividend cycle in order to qualify for the special dividend rate. This account earns a flat rate on entire balance as long as minimum balance is maintained for the entire dividend period.
- "Split-rate Account." Receives dividends at different rates on different portions of the balance of the account—unlike the minimum balance account.
- "Share Certificate Accounts." Similar to certificates of deposits now available through many banks and other thrift institutions. However, the Federal credit union member's share certificate account would not have to be in the form of an actual certificate. Interest on share certificate accounts could be as high as 7-3/4% while interest on other accounts could not exceed 7%.

In addition to the new savings accounts, the proposal authorizes, but does not require, Federal credit unions to specify but not guarantee the dividend rate consumers could expect to receive on savings. Along with other "Truth in Savings" disclosures, credit unions must tell consumers (1) that dividends are not guaranteed; (2) how dividends are calculated; and (3) that penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with requirements.

For persons not familiar with credit unions, it should be emphasized that Federal credit unions are not in existence solely to serve government employees. The term "Federal" in this connection means Federally chartered and therefore meeting Federal standards. Any group of 250 employees or more with a common bond (a clothing manufacturing company, for example) may form a Federal credit union. In fact, of the 12,800 credit unions that NCUA oversees (with a total membership of 34,735,000), only about 15% are "government"—Federal, state or military.

For more information on credit unions write to Public Information Office at address listed below under "Details."

Details—*Federal Register*: July 19, page 37002. Send comments to National Credit Union Administration, 2025 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20456. For further information write or call J. Leonard Skiles at above address; telephone 202-254-9810.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, and it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year and may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402**. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front and back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Rate Register

Planes

• Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has approved Trans World Airlines' (TWA) "super coach" bargain fare between Chicago and Los Angeles to go into effect Sept. 8.

The TWA fare for a one-way flight will be \$99, a 37% cut from the usual \$156 coach charge.

• Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has approved Allegheny Airlines' proposal to offer 30% discount fares on certain flights beginning Aug. 1.

Among the routes involved are runs between New York and Detroit and between Chicago and Providence, Hartford, Albany and Boston.

• Eastern Airlines has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to approve a variety of discount fares, including one fare permitting unlimited travel on its system for \$299.

The \$299 fare would allow 2 or more persons to travel anywhere on Eastern's 105-city route system in the US, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda and the Caribbean, making as many stops as they choose but at least 3 during a period of at least 7 but not more than 21 days. Reservations would have to be made 14 days in advance.

The other discount fares included in the proposal are:

• Individual tour fares to Florida, 25% to 40% below regular coach fares, from many northern and midwestern cities on less restrictive terms. For example, travel would be allowed on weekends, the minimum

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Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

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Rate Register

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stay would be reduced, and advance purchase time would be cut to 7 days.

- A Florida northbound weekend fare from 3 major Florida cities to Washington/Baltimore and 12 other northern cities would be up to 50% lower than current coach fares.

- A 7-to-30 day Super Saver fare would be offered between New York, Newark, and Philadelphia to Florida with fewer restrictions and lower fares than are currently available.

- Individual tour fares to San Juan and the US Virgin Islands would be lowered and the terms liberalized.

If approved by CAB, Eastern's proposal will take effect Sept. 11.

- **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) will allow Advance Booking Charter (ABC) operators to charge a fee of up to \$25 for making substitutions for participants who cancel their reservations on non-European tours. CAB received comments from CAB's **Office of the Consumer Advocate** (OCA) and various travel organizations. All the comments generally supported the proposal. Effective date is Aug. 14. Details—*Federal Register*: July 18, page 36815; Jan. 28, page 5367. *RATE REGISTER*: Feb. 15.

- **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has investigated the 0.7% domestic fare increases proposed by most US airlines and has lifted its suspension of the increase [see *CONSUMER REGISTER*: July 1].

A CAB spokesperson said CAB made an error in calculating figures submitted by the airlines and after an investigation found the 0.7% increase to be justified. The increase went into effect on July 15.

Trains

- Effective Sept. 1, prices will be lowered for Amtrak's USA Rail Pass sold within the US and good for unlimited travel on the 27,000 miles of the Amtrak and Southern Railway systems.

The new prices will be \$185 for 14 days, \$250 for 21 days, and \$295 for 30 days. The USA Rail Passes will be good at the new rates for an unlimited amount of reserved or unreserved conventional coach travel between all points of the Amtrak and Southern lines. They may be upgraded for travel on Metroliners, sleeping cars or other premium services by paying fare differentials for applicable trip segments, but only on a space-available basis, one hour prior to train departure.

